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INFO RUEHOO/CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIJING 006637

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PHSA](#) [CH](#) [FR](#) [GM](#) [JA](#) [UK](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BEIJING-BASED G-5 CHIEFS OF MISSION ON BURMA, THE
EAST CHINA SEA AND UPCOMING HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH VISITORS.

Classified By: Classified by Charge d'Affaires, a.i., Daniel Piccuta.
Reasons 1.4 (b/d).

Summary

1. (C) At the October 12 bi-weekly G-5 Chiefs of Mission gathering, UK Ambassador William Ehrman said that China's concerns in Burma are driven by the long common border, the 2.5 million ethnic Chinese in Burma, the 150,000 PRC citizens living there and the 3,000 Chinese companies active in the country. French DCM Nicholas Chapuis argued that PRC support for a UN Security Council Presidential Statement on Burma marks a major policy shift for the Chinese. Japanese DCM Umeda reported no progress on Sino-Japanese resource cooperation in the East China Sea, citing the median line, China's prior investment in the area and territorial concerns as stumbling blocks. The French DCM reported that preparations for French President Nicolas Sarkozy's November 25-27 visit to China are not yet finalized. End Summary.

Participants

2. (C) UK Ambassador William Ehrman, German Ambassador Dr. Michael Schaefer, Japanese DCM Kunio UMEDA, French DCM Nicholas Chapuis and the Charge met October 12 for the bi-weekly G-5 gathering of Beijing-based Chiefs of Mission.

Burma: Chinese Concerns and Policies

3. (C) China's concerns about Burma are driven by the long common border, the 2.5 million ethnic Chinese in Burma, the 150,000 PRC citizens living there, and the 3,000 Chinese companies active in the country, UK Ambassador William Ehrman said MFA Consular Affairs Department Director General Wei Wei had told him. During a recent conversation on Burma with UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao stated that "all parties must push for democracy." This statement was not publicized by HMG. The Chinese, however, released the comment in a public statement that described the PRC as pushing for democracy. French DCM Nicholas Chapuis noted that for decades China has stated that the UN Security Council (UNSC) is not competent to address the concerns in Burma; as such, PRC support for the UNSC Presidential Statement marks a major shift, as it "obliterates" their adherence to previous policy.

East China Sea Dialogue: No Progress

¶4. (C) No progress was made on China-Japan resource development cooperation in the East China Sea during October 11 talks, reported Japanese DCM Umeda. The two sides were "stuck" on how to define the Joint Development Area. The PRC's National Development and Reform Commission is maintaining a "tough position" on the primary concerns of the median line and China's prior investment in the area, as well as the secondary concern of territorial issues. Despite a lack of progress on the East China Sea, Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda would still like to visit China in 2008, following a visit to the United States.

French High-Level Visitors to China

¶5. (C) French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner's visit has been finalized for October 31-November 1, according to the French DCM. French President Nicolas Sarkozy's November 25-27 visit to Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai is "almost official," but still has not been finalized. French Diplomatic Advisor to the President Jean-David Levitte will hold a French Strategic Dialogue session with Executive Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo November 9-10.
Piccuta